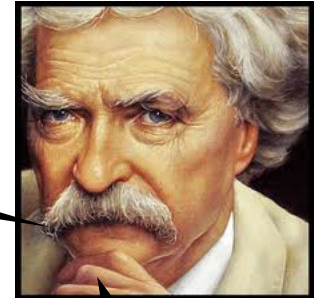


Mr. Heagy's U.S. History



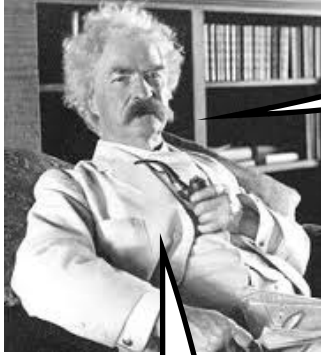
AS IF THE GREAT DEPRESSION WAS
NOT BAD ENOUGH



PARTS OF TEXAS, KANSAS,
OKLAHOMA, ARKANSAS,
COLORADO, AND NEW MEXICO
WERE HIT BY THE WORST
DROUGHT IN AMERICAN
HISTORY. NO RAIN.
EVERYTHING TURNED TO DUST
AND THEN THE DUST GATHERED
INTO MASSIVE DUST STORMS.

The Dust Bowl





THE DUST BOWL WAS A MAJOR HUMAN AND ECOLOGICAL DISASTER. THERE WAS NOTHING, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD DO ABOUT IT.

DRIED TOP SOIL BECAME DUST THAT BLEW ABOUT LIKE SAND IN A DESERT. WHEN THE DUST FINALLY SETTLED, IT CREATED HUGE DUNES. NOTHING GREW FOR MILES AND MILES. DUST BOWL TERRITORY LOOKED LIKE THE SURFACE OF A DESOLATE PLANET WITHOUT HABITATION.

IT WOULD NOT BE A QUESTION OF WHO WANTED TO LIVE HERE, IT WAS A QUESTION OF WHO COULD LIVE HERE.

YOU CAN'T BREATHE THIS AIR IT'S SO FULL OF DUST.



COUGH!
COUGH, COUGH!!!! I
KNOW, COUGH, BUT WHERE CAN,
COUGH, WE GO? THE NATIONAL,
COUGH, ECONOMY IS IN THE
TANK.

ANYWHERE IS
BETTER THAN BEING
BURIED ALIVE HERE IN A
DUST DUNE.

MANY PEOPLE PACKED UP THE FAMILY AND THEN WHAT ELSE THEY COULD FIT IN A VEHICLE AND HEADED OUT. MOST WENT WEST. A FREQUENT DESTINATION WAS CALIFORNIA.



THE KIDS IN THE BACK SEAT WOULD HAVE DROVE ME INSANE BEFORE I GOT ANY WHERE WORTH STAYING.....



EVEN ESCAPE FROM THE DUST BOWL WASN'T EASY. THE STORMS WERE FREQUENT. CASH WAS ALL BUT NON-EXISTENT. AND REALLY, HOW RELIABLE WAS THAT CAR OR TRUCK?

THE MASSIVE DUST STORMS COULD COME UP QUICKLY AND SWALLOW EVERYTHING.



YOUR PLANS FOR ESCAPE COULD BE CUT SHORT BY THE ARRIVAL OF SUCH A STORM.



YOU COULD ALSO BECOME STUCK IN THE RESULT OF A STORM. THEY WERE DANGEROUS AND DEADLY. SOME STORMS LASTED AS LONG AS 27 DAYS.

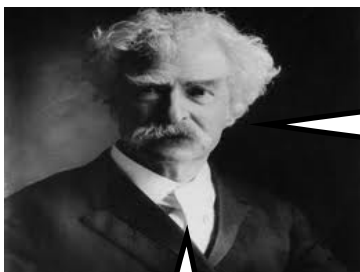




NOTHING IN AMERICAN HISTORY HAD EVER PREPARED AMERICANS FOR THE LIKES OF THE DUST BOWL.



IN THE END, NEITHER MAN NOR BEAST COULD LIVE IN THIS BARREN LAND. THE HUMANS MOVED ON AND WE COWS BIT THE DUST AS THEY SAY.



IF YOU WEREN'T BURIED ON THE WAY OUT OF TOWN BY A DUST STORM, OR THE CLUNKER OF A CAR DIDN'T STRAND YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF A DUST DUNE, THERE WAS THE PROBLEM OF NO COMMUNITY WANTING YOU TO COME THERE.

OKIES, AS THE DISPLACED FROM OKLAHOMA WERE CALLED, BECAME A SPECIAL SUPER-LOW CLASS OF DIRT-BAG CITIZENS WHO WERE UNDESIRABLES EVERYWHERE IN THE NATION.



THEY WERE EVEN MORE UNWELCOME THAN THE ANNUAL INFESTATION OF GYPSIES THAT DESCENDED ON MANY COMMUNITIES FOR A WEEK OF SQUATTING AND "COLLECTING VARIOUS ITEMS THAT WERE NOT BOLTED DOWN." AT LEAST THE GYPSIES MOVED ON RATHER QUICKLY.



POLICE CHIEF FIN WICK HERE. I'M TELLING YA, FIX IT BOY AND GET OUT OF TOWN!



MOMMA ! WHY DO THEY GREET US WITH POLICE AND SHOTGUNS EVERYWHERE WE GO?

For the \$10 cost of gas, refugees from Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas, and other Dust Bowl states could migrate to California. This was the first mass migration of impoverished people in California's history. Before the development of the automobile, migrants to California tended to be middle or upper income.



CALIFORNIA,
HERE WE
COME!

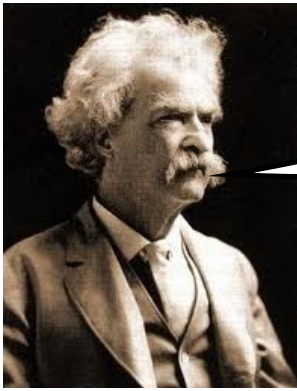


CALIFORNIA TRIED TO CLOSE ITS STATE BORDERS TO THE DUST BOWL MIGRANTS. IT PASSED A LAW BANNING THEM FROM ENTERING THE STATE. THIS WAS DONE TO STOP THE RISING COSTS OF WELFARE IN CALIFORNIA.



THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT DECLARED THE CALIFORNIA ANTI-OKIE LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL BECAUSE IT RESTRICTED THE FREE MOVEMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS ANYWHERE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES. THAT FREE MOVEMENT, THE COURT SAID, WAS GUARANTEED BY THE CONSTITUTION.

THE KIND CITIZENS OF CALIFORNIA WERE ANYTHING BUT HAPPY WITH THE RULING. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE COURT INTERFERING WITH THINGS THAT WERE NONE OF ITS BUSINESS THEY GRIPED.



THE GREAT AMERICAN NOVELIST, JOHN STEINBECK, WROTE ABOUT THE LIVES AND FATE OF THE DUST BOWL MIGRANTS IN HIS NOVEL "THE GRAPES OF WRATH".

THE GRAPES OF WRATH WOULD BE A GREAT READ FOR YOU WHILE YOU ARE STUDYING THE TERRIBLE YEARS OF THE DUST BOWL. YOU CAN FIND IT IN ANY LIBRARY, AND MOST SCHOOLS HAVE CLASSROOM SETS OF THE BOOK.

IF YOU'RE HOOKED UP TO THE INTERNET, I'LL GIVE YOU A URL THAT WILL TAKE YOU TO A GREAT WEBSITE ON THE DUST BOWL. HERE IT IS

...
[HTTP://
WWW.LIVINGHISTORYFARM.ORG
/FARMINGINTHE30S/
WATER_02.HTML](http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthethirties/water_02.html)

THIS LINK WILL TAKE YOU THROUGH THE CHRONOLOGY OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE DUST BOWL.

[HTTP://
WWW.ENGLISH-ILLINOIS.
EDU/MAPS/DEPRESSION/
DUSTBOWL-HTML](http://www.english-illinois.edu/maps/depression/dustbowl.htm)

HERE IS A LINK TO THE FAMOUS WEEDPATCH CAMP WHERE OKIES STAYED UPON ENTERING CALIFORNIA.

[HTTP://
WWW.WEEDPATCHCAMP.COM/
HISTORY/HISTORY-HTML](http://www.weedpatchcamp.com/history/history.htm)

HERE AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS' AMERICAN MEMORY, YOU CAN RESEARCH AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DUST BOWL IN IT VOICES OF THE DUST BOWL SECTION.

[HTTP://MEMORY.LOC.GOV/AMMEM/
AFCTSHTML/TSHOME-HTML](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/afctshtml/tshome.html)